ശ്രീ ടി. കെ. നാരായണപിള്ള: ഈ സ്കൂളുകൾ.

ശ്രീ. സബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ തോപ്പിൽ: മുമ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്ന വാല്യുവേഷൻ തന്നെയാണോ നിയമിച്ചത്?

ശ്രീ. ടി. കെ. നാരായണപിള്ള: അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

ശ്രീ. സബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ തോപ്പിൽ: അതിനെക്കുറിച്ചുനോക്കിക്കാമോ?

ശ്രീ ടി. കെ. നാരായണപിള്ള: അന്വേഷിക്കാം.

Mr. Speaker: Questions are over. We will now proceed to the next business

UNSTARRED QUESTION

PLANTATION LABOURERS AND STAFF

122. [1] **Sri. T. P. Sitaraman:** Will the Hon'ble Minister for Labour be pleased to state.—

(*a*) what are the steps taken by the Government to improve the lot of the plantation labourers and staff;

(*b*) will the Government place on the table the copies of the memorandum submitted by the Palappilli Branch of the ESASI as well as the Rubber Estate Workers Congress?

Minister for Education, Food and Labour **(Sri. T. K. Narayana Pillai):**

(*a*) The Government have appointed Welfare Staff in the Plantation areas in the State to attend to the Welfare of Plantation Labour. The Conciliation Officers of the Department of Labour are mediating in industrial disputes concerning the workers in Plantations. The Workmen's Compensation Act is applicable to Plantations employing more than 25 workers. The Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation is disbursing compensation to those entitled to it under the Act. The payment of Wages Act is extended to the Plantations in this State. The Assistant Labour Commissioners and the Labour Officers are notified as Inspectors under the Payment of Wages Act. Government of India are contemplating to enact a comprehensive legislation regulating the hours of work and conditions of labour in Plantations.

(*b*) A copy of the memorandum submitted by the Rubber Estate Workers' Congress, Palappilli is given below. We have not received any memorandum submitted by the Palappilli branch of the ESASI.

Copy of the Memorandum submitted by the Palappilly Rubber Estate Workers' Congress to the Superintendents and Managers of Estates owned by Messrs. Malayalam Plantations Ltd., Cochin Malabar Estates Ltd., and Kerala Calicut Estates Ltd., in Palappilli

Sir,

The Palappilli Rubber Estate Workers' Congress request you to kindly consider the following and to be good enough to grant the just and reasonable demands made hereunder.

The rate of wages obtained here is too low and we hope nowhere in India it is so low as it is here. The rate in 1950 is still that of 1940. It is a known fact that the cost of living now has gone up several times than that of 1940. In spite of this the wages of the labour remains the same here and neither are they given a better Basic Wage nor a sufficient Dearness Allowance.

The Tappers working here are not natives of this District. They come from Malabar and Travancore; per each pound of Rubber they bring, they are paid only

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one anna three pies and one anna six pies at the maximum. Inclusive of the Dearness allowance (7¼ annas) a tapper is earning only an average of Fourteen annas daily. And it is quite clear that this is not at all sufficient for the labour to live upon apart the family he has to support.

The Estates employ for General Works the native labour of whom man get a rate of 12½ annas and woman 10 annas. They are living about six to ten miles away from the Estate. They have to start from their homes very early for work and they can reach back only late in the evening. At times some of them have to go without work after they come to the Estates. This native labour are not given any of the benefits which other industrial labour are getting.

The Type of lines built for the Resident labour are not at all satisfactory. There is no proper ventilation. Walls are not plastered and white washed in some places and hence are infested with flies, bugs and ants, etc.

The wells are not nearer to the lines. There is not sufficient water in them at times. Neither the water is clear and drinkable nor the wells well kept.

When the Managers and some staff get clear pipe water supply, the labour is forced to drink the unfiltered and unclean water from the worst type of wells.

Owing to the inability for affording good and nourishing food and for the lack of good drinking water and sufficient and proper medical aid, the labourer's standard of health is very poor in the Estates.

For name's sake there are dispensaries in the Estates. When the Labour fall ill they are not properly cared or given sufficient or good and proper medicines. There is no practice of supplying food from the Dispensaries to the inpatients. The patients must themselves provide for their food. They are not even getting good mattresses to lie down.

When accidents occur, labour are not compensated and when compensated are not sufficient at all.

They are not getting any privilege leave, sick leave or religious holidays.

They are not getting any actual Bonus and whatever is paid in the name of Bonus is very meagre. There is every possibility of each labour getting about Rs 100 each a year if proper Bonus is paid.

The local and Resident labour suffer from all these hardships.

It is the labour contractors who are benefitted. They get from 12 to 16 per cent commission on the total earnings of the labour. The labour Contractors as well as the management are totally against the labour. The labour who actually works and promotes the prosperity of the Plantations are ignored. The labour Contractors enjoy at the cost of the poor labour. Not even is there freedom to represent the grievances of the labour. If at all any of the grievances are brought forward, the Contractors will start to trouble and worry the labour by all possible means.

There are instances where the labour are not getting the rationed articles to which they are entitled. The Ration cards are not with the labour. Thank God, they are getting their ration of rice regularly.

When Mooply & Kundai Estates issue 8 ozs. of Kerosene Oil per card, Pudukad Estate issue 4 ozs. and Chimoney Estate nothing. Even what is issued is far below what a card holder is entitled to receive.

When the labour of Pudukad and Chemoney Estates get their Ration of Sugar, those in Kundai and Mooply get nothing.

Whenever the labour request for the cards for buying sugar from outside, not only they are not given the cards but they are even threatened.

Generally the labour is not intimated about his wages and earnings. They have to be satisfied with what they get and the estate accounts cannot be questioned. So far this is what is happening here.

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However, experienced be the labour and whatever be his service in the estate there is no security of permanency to his work. His lot is entirely left with the contractor. He can be sent off at any time at the sweet will of the employer and contractor. Labour who are victims to this sort of treatment are rotting here as they are penniless at least to reach their villages and homes.

Such are the countless hardships of the labour. They were keeping quiet because they too wish peace in the plantations. But they cannot wait any longer. Therefore the Palappilly Rubber Estate Workers' Congress request the estate managements to sympathetically consider and fulfill the following demands:—

1. That the factory labour, Tappers and Watchmen be paid Re. 1 as. 8 Basic Wage daily.
2. That the men labour who do all general works be paid a basic wage of Re. 1 as. 4 and women Re. 1 daily.
3. That all assistant maistries be given a Basic Wage of Re. 1 as. 12 daily.
4. That all head maistries be paid Rs. 2 daily and all other allowances enjoyed by the staff in estates.
5. That all the above four class of labour be given three annas for every point of rise in the living index.
6. That the labour should get 75 per cent of the wages (basic) whenever they are not given work for no fault of theirs.
7. That the system of recruiting labour through the Contractors must cease and that they be employed directly by the managements.
8. That the labour who have been working continuously for three months be taken as permanent.
9. That bonus be paid for the years of 1947-48 and
10. That all labour be granted 7 days sick leave 10 days' Privilege leave and six days religious holidays every year.
11. That this labour Union known as "Palappilly Rubber Estate Workers' Congress" be recognised.
12. That gratuity be paid to those who retire from work because of old age or disability.
13. That Educational facilities be provided for the children of the labour.
14. That the labour and their Dependents be given sufficient free medical aid.
15. That maternity allowances and such other benefits be granted.
16. That the labour are given neat, strong and sufficient accommodations.
17. That the labour, are given good pipe water.
18. That the labour, according to their religious faiths be given separate prayer halls.
19. That those who have taken maternity leave are also eligible for privilege leave.
20. That the advance paid to the labour in the beginning of the year be recovered only in instalments within the end of the year.
21. That the estates should provide canteens so that labour can get good and cheap food conveniently.
22. That those who have been dismissed from service since 1949 be reinstated.
23. That the labour be given only 8 hours work.
24. That all watchmen are given rugs, Raincoats and lanterns.
25. That all the labour are given a weekly holiday.
26. And that the labour is individually paid by the managers direct.

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On behalf of the Palapilly Rubber Workers' Congress, I request you to view the demands sympathetically and to fulfil the demands made.

Your's faithfully,
Sd.
President *Secretary.*

ADJOURNMENT MOTION RE-UNDER-TRIAL PRISONERS

Sri. E. Gopalakrishna Menon: Sir, I understand that the Government are prepared with the information regarding the Adjournment Motion which was given notice of yesterday in respect of the treatment meted out to under-trial prisoners. I would request that the information may be made available to the House.

Chief Minister **(Sri. C. Kesavan):** I have collected the information. Sir, shall I give that information?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

ശ്രീ. സി. കേശവൻ: ഫൻ ഫ മാറ്റ് ഫൻ-ാംന-യിൽ ലാക്കപ്പിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന ര തടവുകാരും ആലപ്പുഴ സബ്ജയിലിൽ പാർപ്പിച്ചിരുന്ന പത്തു തടവുകാരും ഹങ്കർ സ്ട്രൈക്ക് തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതു് അവരുടെ ആഹാര രീതി മാറിക്കിട്ടുന്നതിനും ആവശ്യമുള്ളിടത്തോളം വസ്ത്രങ്ങളും ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനും മറക്കാൻ പുകവലി ഇവക്കുള്ള സൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനും ന്യൂസ് പേപ്പർ കിട്ടാനും അവരുടെ കേസ്സുകളും നടത്തി അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും പ്രതികളായിരിക്കുന്ന അണ്ടർട്രയൽ പ്രിസനേഴ്സിനെ ജാമ്യത്തിൽ വിടുന്നതിനും എല്ലാവരേയും ഒരുമിച്ചു താമസിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും ആണ് അവരുടെ സത്യാഗ്രഹം തുടങ്ങിയതു്. കുമാരപ്പണിക്കർ, വർഗീസ് വൈദ്യൻ, പുതുപ്പള്ളി രാഘവൻ പിള്ള, ഡാക്ടർ രാമകൃഷ്ണൻ തമ്പി, ഇവർ ഇതിലെ നായകന്മാരാണ്.

ഫ ഫ-ാം തീയതി പത്തു് ആളുകൾകൂടി ഹങ്കർ സ്ട്രൈക്കിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടു. ഈ ഹങ്കർ സ്ട്രൈക്കിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട എസ്സ്. കുമാരൻ എന്ന ആളെ സെഷൻകോടതിയിൽനിന്നും ജാമ്യം അനുവദിച്ചതനുസരിച്ചു വിടുതൽ ചെയ്ത ഹങ്കർ സ്ട്രൈക്കിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട എല്ലാവരുംതന്നെ പുന്നപ്ര വയലാർ കേസ്സുകളിലെ പ്രതികളാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഡാക്ടർ രാമകൃഷ്ണൻതമ്പി ആ കേസ്സിലെ പ്രതിയല്ല. ഡാക്ടർ തമ്പിയെ ഒരു സെക്യൂരിറ്റി കേസ്സിൽ ശിക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. കൊലപാതകത്തിനു് പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചു എന്നൊരു കേസിൽ പ്രതിയുമാണ്. ഫർ-ാം തീയതി കാലത്തു് ഹങ്കർ സ്ട്രൈക്കേഴ്സ് ആയ രാഘവൻപിള്ള, കുമാരപ്പണിക്കർ, കോഷി, സുകുമാരൻ എന്നീ നാലു പേരെ ആശുപത്രിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുപോയി. അവരുടെ ഉദ്ദേശം പുറത്തുപോയി ബന്ധം പുലർത്തി അവരുടെ സംഘടനാപരമായ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്കു് സൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കുകയെന്നുള്ളതാണെന്നു വിചാരിക്കപ്പെടുന്നു. ഡാക്ടരോടു് ചോദിച്ചതിൽ കോഷി ഒഴിച്ചുള്ളവരുടെ ശരീരസ്ഥിതി ആപൽക്കരമല്ലെന്നു കണ്ടതിനാൽ അവരെ ഫ ര-ാം തീയതി രാവിലെ സബ്ജയിലിലേക്കു് തിരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുവന്നു. ഇതുസംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഇന്നു രാവിലെ ഹങ്കർ സ്ട്രൈക്കേഴ്സിന്റെ താല്പര്യങ്ങളെ പ്രതിനിധീകരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു എന്റെ അടുക്കൽ ഒരു നിവേദനം തന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ നിവേദനത്തിൽ അവർ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നതും കൂടി ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പറന്മാരുടെ അറിവിലേക്കായി ഞാൻ വച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

(ക) ലാക്കപ്പിൽനിന്നും സബ്ജയിലിലേക്കു് മാറ്റുക.

(ഖ) നിരോധിക്കാത്ത പത്രങ്ങളും പുസ്തകങ്ങളും വായിക്കാൻ അനുവദിക്കുകയും, അതു് യഥേഷ്ടം ചിലവിൽ വാങ്ങിതരികയും ചെയ്യുക.

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